



## Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

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### New Information in Blue Text

<b>Event Name</b>	23-0005 Winter Weather 29 JAN ( <b>DR-4705-TX</b> )
<b>Date</b>	May 05, 2023
<b>Time</b>	10:00 AM
<b>Operational Period</b>	8:00 AM May 04 to 8:00 AM May 05 2023
<b>Report Number</b>	95

Regions Affected	
<b>Regions Affected</b>	Regions 1, 2 & 6
<b>DDCs Active</b>	None

**STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:** Governor Abbott announced on April 22 that President Biden partially approved the state's request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Texas counties impacted by the effects of icy conditions and winter weather from Winter Storm Mara earlier this year.

Out of the 23 counties in the Governor's request to President Biden in February, the White House approved access to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) program for the following 13 counties: Bastrop, Blanco, Burleson, Burnet, Hays, Henderson, Kendall, Lee, Leon, Milam, Robertson, Travis, and Williamson.

This presidential approval grants eligibility for jurisdictions in the approved counties to FEMA's PA program, which includes supplemental grant funding to eligible public and non-profit entities for debris removal, emergency protective measures, roads and bridges, water control facilities, public buildings, equipment and contents, public utilities, parks, recreational, and other facilities. This approval also authorizes additional FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program resources to be made available statewide.

Additionally, the Governor has directed TDEM to work with local, state, and federal partners to ensure all other Texas counties that meet their federally set PA thresholds are added to this federal declaration.

Jurisdictions continue recovery operations and are completing debris removal. TDEM continues to manage and operate a debris management site in Florence in partnership with local and state agencies including Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service Public Works Response Team, and Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, at the request of local officials.

On February 21, Governor Abbott requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration, from the President, for the Texas communities impacted by the severe winter storm. The Governor's request listed the counties of: Bastrop, Blanco, Burleson, Burnet, Caldwell, Delta, Denton, Falls, Hays, Henderson, Hopkins, Hunt, Kendall, Lamar, Lee, Leon, Milam, Red River, Robertson, Shelby, Smith, Travis, and Williamson.

On February 20, Governor Abbott expanded the state's disaster declaration to include additional counties impacted by the ice storm. Governor Abbott directed TDEM to request assistance from FEMA to provide personnel to certify reported damages. TDEM has deployed specialized teams throughout Texas to work with electric cooperatives and utility partners to identify potential opportunities in affected areas for disaster assistance.

On Saturday, February 4, Governor Abbott issued a disaster declaration for Texas counties impacted by this week's ice storm that caused widespread property damage, hazardous travel disruptions, and localized power outages. The disaster declaration includes Denton, Hays, Henderson, Milam, Smith, Travis, and Williamson counties. Additional counties may be added to the declaration as damage.

On February 2, the Governor urged Texans to report ice storm damage to homes and businesses using the Individual State of Texas Assessment Tool (iSTAT) and can be filled out in English and Spanish online by visiting [damage.tdem.texas.gov](https://damage.tdem.texas.gov) and clicking on "Ice Storm/Winter Weather January 29 - Ongoing."

On January 31, the Governor provided an update on the State of Texas' response to the severe winter weather conditions affecting substantial portions of Texas, following a briefing at the State Operations Center in Austin. Texans in the North, West, and Central regions of the state should prepare for continued freezing cold temperatures, wind-chills, freezing rain, sleet, and icing conditions from January 31 through February 2.

On January 30, Governor Abbott directed TDEM to increase the readiness level of the State Operations Center (SOC) to Level II as winter weather begins impacting large portions of Texas from January 30 through February 2.

#### **OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:**

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response.
3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

#### **RESPONDING TO STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS' REPORTS**

##### **Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System (TDEM):**

**TEMAT DRTF:** Ten Texas Emergency Management Assistance Team - Disaster Recovery Task Force (DRTF) members have been activated to support initial damage assessments throughout TDEM Regions 1 and 6. This request will provide additional support to utility providers in the identification and documentation of damages following the 23-0005 Severe/Winter Weather event.

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension:** Texas Agrilife will assist with Williamson County’s debris management operation. Two agents will also be assisting with logistics and operating heavy equipment at the Williamson County burn site located in Florence through April 28.

**Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS):** TAMFS continues to support the debris management site in Florence, Williamson County to reduce vegetation debris.

**FINAL COMMENTS:** The State Operations Center (SOC) is at Level III (Increased Response Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

Level I	(Emergency Conditions)
Level II	(Escalated Response Conditions)
Level III	(Increased Readiness Conditions)
Level IV	(Normal Conditions)

*This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:*  
<https://www.tdem.texas.gov/response/state-operations-center#tab-3>

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